

CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a transgenic mouse overexpressing a polypeptide having platelet-derived growth factor C (PDGF-C) activity ~~or an analog or a functional fragment having a PDGF-C activity~~, the method comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a transgenic DNA into a mouse cell, said transgenic DNA comprising a polynucleotide sequence operably linked to a suitable promoter, said polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2;

b) allowing said cell from step a) to develop into a transgenic mouse,

wherein said cell of step a) is a pronuclei of a fertilized oocyte, said method further comprising implanting said fertilized oocyte into a pseudopregnant mouse; or

wherein said cell of step a) is an embryonic stem cell; said DNA is integrated into a genomic DNA of said embryonic stem cell; and said embryonic stem cell is introduced into a developing embryo.

2-4. (cancelled)

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said promoter is selected from the group consisting of alpha-myosin heavy chain promoter, keratin K14 promoter, and insulin promoter.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transgenic DNA is operably linked to an ~~epitope-tag~~ epitope tag.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the epitope tag is c-myc.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transgenic DNA is operably linked to a marker sequence.

9. (previously amended) The mouse produced by the method of claim 1.

10-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously amended) The mouse that is a descendant from the mouse according to claim 9

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously amended) The mouse according to Claim 9, wherein the mouse is homozygous with regard to the transgenic DNA.

15. (previously amended) A cell isolated from a mouse according to claim 9.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A fertilized mouse oocyte containing transgenic DNA that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A mouse embryonic stem cell containing transgenic DNA that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (previously amended) A method for identifying a compound as a PDGF-C antagonist, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said compound into a transgenic mouse overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2;

monitoring *in vitro* a biological activity of PDGF-C in an isolated cell from said mouse; and

identifying said compound as a PDGF-C antagonist where PDGF-C biological activity is inhibited.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously amended) A method for identifying a compound as a PDGF-C antagonist, said method comprising the steps of:

exposing to said compound a cell isolated from a transgenic mouse overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2;

assaying an effect of said compound on said cell *in vitro*; and

identifying said compound as a PDGF-C antagonist where the PDGF-C biological activity of said cell is altered.

23. (previously amended) A method of screening a compound for inhibition of hypertrophy, comprising the steps of:

administering a pharmaceutically active amount of said compound to a transgenic mouse overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2; and

monitoring cardiac development of said mouse;

determining said compound inhibits hypertrophy where said cardiac development is inhibited when compared to a control transgenic mouse in the absence of said compound.

24. (previously amended) A method of screening a compound for inhibition of fibrosis, comprising the steps of:

administering a pharmaceutically active amount of said compound to a transgenic mouse overexpressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2; and

monitoring the cardiac development of said mouse;

determining said compound inhibits fibrosis where said cardiac development is inhibited when compared to a non-treated control transgenic mouse.

25. (previously amended) A transgenic mouse according to Claim 9, wherein the mouse is heterozygous with regard to the transgenic DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.